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# INFORMATION

TO

## MANKIND;

OR,

## TRAITS

OF

## HISTORY.

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*Accumula intellectus illuminatus.*

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“BABYLON IS FALLEN.”

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTORY.

### *Message to the Council of Five Hundred.*

13th Ventose, (March 3), Fifth Year.

#### CITIZENS REPRESENTATIVES,

**T**WO Governments of Europe have distinguished themselves by a crafty and sanguinary line of politics, & by their hatred to France, particularly France free and Republican. These are, the Cabinet of St. James's and the Theocracy of Rome.

The crimes of the first of these Governments have for a long time excited your indignation. They shall soon receive their just chastisements. These crimes, however, are nothing in comparison with those of the Bishop of Rome.

You have seen, in the late instance, with what insolence the Ambassador of France, who now sits amongst you, was insulted in the Palace of the French Republic. He beheld one of our Heroes massacred before his eyes, by a wily intrigue of that perfidious Government; audacious only in its attempt, but vile and abject after the perpetration of a crime—of that Government of Priests, supported for many ages by the credulity of nations, sacerdotal fanaticisms, & the interest of thrones—a Government contradictory to all the principles it seemed to profess, taking the name of Christian only to dishonour it, and itself destroying the religion it preached up, saying that its kingdom was not of this world, and at the same time usurping universal Monarchy—a Government, assassin in prosperity, assassin in humiliation; assassination was in all times the season of its authority; and whether CLEMENT VI. oppressed Europe by the extravagance of his pride, or that PIUS VI. concealed his useless crowns in the solitude of the Vatican, we find the first of these servants of the servants of God arrogantly assassinating the Emperor LOUIS of Bavaria, as we see the other cowardly assassinating Bassville & Duphot.

For fourteen hundred years, humanity demanded the overthrow of that anti-social power, whose cradle seems to have been placed in the reign of Tiberius, but for the purpose of appropriating to itself the duplicity, the ferocious tyranny, the gloomy policy and debauchery of the

kinsman of Nero. What eye, taking it from that period, can bear to follow it without horror through that labyrinth of crimes, and descend with it to our days? Behold it, forgetting at once the primitive maxims of the gospel, which only speaks of humility, poverty and universal charity; behold it, after having shaken the throne of the Cæsars under the humble cloak of the persecuted, as the first act of its infant authority, absolving Constantine for the murder of his wife, of his father in law, and his son; lavishing the palms of heaven on the butcher of Antiochus Thessalonica, and undermining the empires of the East & West by the bloody discords of regenerating heresies.

Then become robust, gigantic, & invulnerable, it shewed itself in the reign of Charlemagne, under all the marks of its sacred ferocity. It began a reign of a thousand years, by the massacre of the unfortunate Saxons. An apostle of revolt, violator of all society, destroyer of all laws; it forged its titles in fabricating false authorities; it gave masters to nations; deposed or consecrated Monarchs accordingly as it suited its caprice, or its avarice. It prophaned their ashes or prescribed their apotheosis: It arrogated the right of investitures to make the Roman People the reward of robbery. It is that which breaks all oaths and solemn obligations; commends every species of infidelity; are in love with all treasons; cover Europe with butchers and blood; glide into all consciences; spy into the secrets of all families; invent such excommunications as may affect all the Officers in that Department. The crimes and treasures of the Country were set to auction under the protection of the indulgences; the murderous arms of the inhabitants of Nice to be revenged for the loss of their image; to avenge themselves of the statues of the Patriarch, they engaged the Citizens of Rome; the Emperor Henry IV. was devoted to the poinards of assassins; consecrated by the Council of Latran, the horrible massacre of the Albijenses; decreed at Basle to involve twenty nations in war for the interests of three priests burnt at Constance, in honour of Heaven, the unfortunate John Huss and Jeromo de Prague, and at length astonished the world by an eighteen years exhibition of idiotism at Trent.

Let it not be believed that the Ocean opposes a barrier to his furor. The sands of Idumea are yet wet with the

blood with which the Popes drenched them. China, Cathai, and Japan, have learned to curse the fanaticism of the Pontiffs of Rome; and in the other extremity of the world, the Sun of Cusco on the tomb of the Incas demands an account of the blood of the unfortunate Indians.

But in the midst of this constant succession of theocratic calamities, what people have suffered more from them than the French? View these insolent Popes making the servile back of Louis the debonaire, and rejoice in the insult they gave to a nation in the person of its degraded Sovereign.---From our fertile plains they sent the first dæmon of the Crusades. Their monstrous avarice aspired to the treasures; and deserved the fate of the Templars. They made Philip the Bel their accomplice, and he transformed all Paris into a place of execution. It was a Hildebrand, the poisoner of several Popes; a Bertrand de Gotha, a judicator of the prelacy of Bourdeaux; a Dossa de Cahors, the usurper of the Roman Mitre; a Roger de Limoges, a fraudulent Bankrupt, who, under the names of Gregory VII. Clement V. John XXII. and Clement VII. formed a distinguished part among the Tyrants of France, and shared with corrupted Courtiers the money of the People, which they soon wasted in their debaucheries. To Leo X. our ancestors were indebted for the sacrilegious concordat which swallowed up so many millions. But the Gold of France was a trifle to them; they thirsted for its Blood.

There is not a sanguinary event in our History in which some Pope is not concerned. Recollect the massacre of all the French in Sicily. Nicholas III. gave the signal for these homicidal Vespers. Open the bloody Calendars of the Bourguignonians and the Armagnacs, and there you will find the hand of Boniface IX. Examine the Tyranny of Louis XI. and you will see it sanctioned by Sixtus IV. Look at the furies of the League; and you will recognize Gregory XIII. receiving on his Throne the dreadful offering of the head of Admiral Coligny. If you read the history of the pretensions of Henry IV. to the Throne, you will find Gregory XIV. directing an army against France, and Clement VII. proudly commanding the Catholics to choose a King. In the affair of La Frende, Innocent X. protected Cardinal de Retz—Did a ferocious Minister

command the massacre of Cevenes? Innocent XII. blessed the Butchers—Did the most trifling disputes about Janoenism engage the people? Clement XI. heightened & exasperated them. It was in consequence of the bulls of the pretended *common Father of the Faithful* that the French were so often divided, fought, and destroyed each other. At length, attacked on all sides by rising philosophy, confounded by spreading knowledge, the Sacerdotal Giant sunk into nothingness at the sight of the French Revolution. But recollect, Citizens Representatives, that he was then the Generalissimo of the Vendean troops. In his name, all their brigands were led on with chapelets, scapularies, and daggers. The family of the ridiculous Pretender of the Throne of France fled to Rome, and the Pope was the point of support upon which the principal hopes of the eldest son of the Church rested. Finally, recollect, that when so many Kings joined at Pilnitz in the mad hope of dimembering France, they depended more upon the auxiliary thunder of the Vatican than on their arms; and the first article of the treaty of coalition was the re-establishment of fanaticism, and to bring back amongst us the Ministers of Rome.

Although the knowledge of the Directory was well founded with respect to these and other facts, it consulted with a certain degree of condescension the opinions of some French who were infatuated in their zeal for the interests of the Popes. On that consideration alone, Rome had been spared. On that principle even the horrid assassination perpetrated upon the person of *Hugon Basseville*, the French Ambassador, had been forgotten. In signing the Treaty of Toleration, the Pope had been pardoned! Fruitless indulgence! Fatal impunity! Scarcely had the French Troops withdrawn from the frontiers of the Ecclesiastical State, when the work of assassination was recommenced by the Theocracy. One of our most valuable Generals, the gallant Duphot, marked out as a victim, expired beneath their daggers. All Europe is convinced, that the Papal Government is the sole author of this crime: that it has not been compelled by the slightest instigation to commit it; and that it had itself excited, to that end, an appearance of insurrection. At the same time, the Cardinal Busca carried on a correspondence with the conspira-

tors, whose guilt was established on the 4th September, and whose design was to invoke France in the flames of civil war on the subject of religious worship and of Church Bells.—The Assembly for Ecclesiastical Affairs decided, that a faithful Catholic could not in conscience take the oath of Hatred to Royalty ; forgetting thus, that the Prophet Samuel threatens the people in the name of God, to send them Kings in his vengeance. Finally, this Government collected troops, sent for foreign Generals, and, in want of troops who were unwilling to fight for it, cajoled the inhabitants of the country, and distributed arms among them.

That was too much, Citizens Representatives, the measure of its wickedness was full, and it became the province of the French Republic to dry up the tears of humanity. The Executive Directory ordered the Army of Italy to march against Rome, and to take vengeance on that Government for the commission of so many outrages. The progress of the Army experienced no impediment on the part of the Pope's soldiers ; but some unfortunate peasants, seduced by missionaries, dared to shew themselves. They were soon dispersed by force, and afterwards enlightened by a Manifesto of the French General. At length the inhabitants of Rome, who had not participated in the crimes of their Priests, have just obliterated them by a solemn disavowal. The people have separated their cause from that of the guilty, and have exacted justice from their own Government. In its first Message, the Executive Directory had announced to you, that the French troops were in possession of the Castle of St. Angelo and the Capitol, from the 22d Pluviose.

It now transmits to you the last intelligence which it has received from Rome, and which contains one of the greatest events of modern History. Until the 27th Pluviose, General BERTHIER, arrived under the walls of Rome, had not entered that City. He remained in his Camp. On the 27th, the Anniversary of the 22d year of Pius the VI. the Roman People repaired to the Campo Vaccino, where it drew up a solemn act of its resumption of the Rights of Sovereignty.

The Act is dated Rome, 15th February 1798. *The First year of Liberty proclaimed in the Capitol.* It is followed by the signatures of all the Roman People who could write, to the number of several thousands. It was read aloud by a distinct and audible voice, in the midst of an innumerable multitude of People, confirmed and approved with acclamations and universal joy.

After the Proclamation, Trees of Liberty were planted before the Capitol and in other public places.

At noon the D<sup>e</sup>putation, bearing the colours of the Roman Republic, presented to General Berthier the wishes of the People and the Provisional Government. The General proceeded to the Capitol himself, to reply to the Roman People in the name of the French. He passed through Rome surrounded by the people, who shouted forth applauses on the French Arms. He ascended the Capitol to invoke the manes of Cato and of Brutus; and, agreeably to the intention of the Directory, he declared that the French Republic professes this principle, viz, that the People are Sovereigns; and acknowledged the independence of the Roman Republic, formed of all the territory which remained under the temporal authority of the Pope after the treaty of Campo Formio.

The Executive Directory joins to this message a printed Copy of the declaration of General Berthier, in the French and Italian Languages.

After the Declaration transmitted to the Provisional Consuls, the General in Chief made the tour of the Capitol in the midst of immense crouds, rending the air with cries of *Live the French Republic, the Roman Republic and Liberty!*

He passed through Rome to return to his camp. The same exclamations, the same joy followed him.

He said, in a dispatch of the 27th Pluviose, " The Altar of Liberty is erected in the Capitol: All the People are content.

On the 28th, he wrote that the Revolution was made with the greatest order, and that Rome presented the imposing and majestic spectacle of a wise people who resumed their dignity, broke their chains, and entertained no other passion than that of cold contempt against their oppressors.

In another dispatch, dated the 2d of Ventose, he announced that every thing was done that could consolidate the great work of the ever memorable day of the 27th Pluviose.

The Municipality of Rome is organized, and also the Civic Guard, which has taken an oath of fidelity to the Roman Republic.

The French General has taken those precautions which worship and prejudices might require on his part. On the 30th Pluviose, the Churches of Rome resounded with a *Te Deum*, to celebrate the day on which Rome regained her Liberty, and proclaimed her Republic. Fourteen Cardinals sung this hymn themselves at St. Peters. They are not of the number of those who counselled the horrible perfidy committed against France. The Authors of it are for the most part fled, the rest are taken.

The Pope quitted Rome on the 2d of this month, at four o'clock. He demanded from the French two officers, who were granted him to serve as safeguard. It was not thought proper to keep him prisoner, because he threw himself upon our loyalty; Nor have the attentions due to his great age been forgotten: but he felt himself that he could not remain longer in Rome, that he ought to complete the Revolution by giving place to Liberty, and resigning himself to his fate. Free Rome is now

rid of the presence of the Despot; his arms are taken from him, and his retreat has occasioned a solemn festival.

Trees of Liberty are planted in all the Communes of the late States of the Church. There has been some difficulty in destroying in Rome, the prejudice and hatred which the Papal Government had endeavoured to excite against the French Army, in propagating fears of violation, pillage, &c. and stating that, under the pretext of avenging a crime, France speculated on the conquest of the Country, in order to make a shameful traffic of it with other Powers. But this sinister impression was removed by the frank reply of General BERTHIER, to the Act of the Roman People. He shewed them, that the French Nation did not carry on a *Slave Trade*, and that, far from selling the People of other Countries, they were their deliverers. The order has been given to celebrate, at Rome, the funeral ceremony of the brave and unfortunate Duphot.

August Monuments are to be erected on the spots where *Duphot* and *Basseville* were massacred.

The Roman People themselves proposed a Fete of antique and noble character, dedicated to the glory of the French Republic, and which is to take place in the Roman Forum, under the triumphal arches of the Emperors Titus and Severus.

You will be satisfied, Citizens Representatives, with learning that such great events have taken place without the effusion of human blood; that the public treasury, the monuments of the arts, property and persons, have been respected; and that the discipline of the Army of Italy, equal to its valour, has merited the esteem and admiration of the Romans restored to themselves.

The Directory have but one trait to add—

The provisional Government of the Roman Republic has appointed an Ambassador to the French Republic. He set off on the 3d Ventose. Oh! Citizens Representatives, what a feature in the history of the world is the sending to Paris of a Minister from the Roman Consuls to thank the French for the generous support given by them to the deliverance of Rome! What soul, however, under the influence of apathy, could remain insensible to so glorious a sight? Who can without transport, hear the recital of the awaking of the Roman People from their slumber? Who could refuse to salute the renaissant Republic? But, above all, how sublime to bear the title of French Citizen, and to see that great People extinguish for ever the thunders of the Vatican, with the same hand that is erecting again, in the Capitol, Altars to Liberty.

The Executive Directory cannot doubt the effect which this national sentiment will produce upon you, Citizens Representatives; & they have reason to believe that you will approve, in a solemn manner, the conduct of the Army of Italy.

MERLIN, President.

LAGARDE, Sec. Gen.

